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# Reveille

Issue 23

June 2015

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**CSUSB Veterans Success Center**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SAN BERNARDINO**

Veterans Success Center

## Armed Forces Day & Yellow Ribbon Campaign

On May 14, 2015, the Veterans Success Center hosted CSUSB's Armed Forces Day-Yellow Ribbon Campaign to pay tribute to military service members and Californians currently deployed, and to give our campus the opportunity to experience what military life is like. Different branches of the Armed Forces provided demonstrations: Edwards Air Force Base brought its police K-9; the Marine Corps conducted a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program demonstration; the Navy brought its SEAL desert patrol vehicle and the Army brought its armored Humvees. The event was organized by CSUSB alumni 2ndLt. Eric Rebollar, USMCR. Remarks were made by U.S. Navy veteran and CSUSB professor Dr. Joseph Scarcella and USMC veteran Enoch "Mac" McClain. After the decoration of the trees, judges walked around campus scoring the trees based on established criteria, followed by demonstrations by the respective branches.

### Best Tree Decoration Winners

#### San Bernardino Campus

Office of the Registrar, Community Engagement and the SMSU Program Board

#### Palm Desert Campus

Services to Students with Disabilities



## *Veterans Success Center Memorial Day and Community Service*

### *Jaime Espinoza*

I have never looked at Memorial Day the same ever since I started working at the Veterans Success Center. Before working at the VSC, Memorial Day to me was just another day off or what some people call a three-day weekend. I never stopped to think about the meaning of it. Also, I was one of those people that get Veterans Day confused with Memorial Day. On May 20, 2015, the CSUSB Memorial Day Ceremony was on the Pfau Library Lawn where all of the ceremonial traditions took place. That is where I learned that Memorial Day is more than just a three-day weekend. Its purpose is for us to remember all those American service members who have passed away. It is because of their commitment and loyalty to this nation that we enjoy freedom and democracy here. I am glad that we are able to hold these types of events here at CSUSB and the Palm Desert

campus because as I was once confused about the meaning of Memorial Day, there are still students who are also lost when it comes to the meaning of this special day.

The Veterans Success Center also took about 30 students to the Riverside National Cemetery to place flags and flowers on the graves of the fallen service members. The expressions on the students' faces were remarkable; we were happy we were able to remember what sacrifices Americans have made for our freedom. Students were able to look at how many graves there are at the cemetery and reflect on one question: Is freedom free? And the answer is "no", freedom comes with a price and at times the life of a human. That is why we title our event here at CSUSB, "Remembering the Sacrifice." We at CSUSB will always remember.

### *Jason Alipio, USMC Veteran, Presents His Research on Capitol Hill*



Jason Alipio, a CSUSB psychology undergraduate student and a USMC veteran, was selected by the Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) to participate in the 19th Annual Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C., April 22-23, 2015. Posters on the Hill helps raise awareness of research undergraduate students are conducting and its impact on the U.S. Jason's research project was one of 60 selected from approximately 500 applications and the only one from CSUSB. His research focused on the spatial memory deficits caused in adolescents from taking the anti-depressant drug Prozac, which is the only FDA approved anti-depressant for children.

In a letter to CSUSB President Tomás Morales, Elizabeth Ambos, executive officer of CUR, wrote, "We would like to congratulate California State University, San Bernardino on the acceptance of your student, Jason B Alipio.

We believe that the undergraduate research experience contributes positively to the value of the education your students receive and they will leave your institution better prepared as a result for graduate school, their career, and the future. We are proud of our members, who serve as advisors and as mentors to undergraduate researchers, and believe your faculty and students are stellar examples of the best in higher education."

Jason and his faculty mentor, Dr. Sergio Iñiguez (a CSUSB alumnus and former McNair Scholar) met with several congressional members from our region. Jason remarked, "Posters on the Hill was an amazing experience! My adviser, Dr. Iñiguez, and I were able to speak to Congressman Pete Aguilar, Congressman Raul Ruiz, and Congressman Ken Calvert's assistant Molly Lowe. They were all very welcoming and supportive of undergraduate research and very receptive to my specific research endeavors." Jason is scheduled to present his research at several conferences.



# *CSUSB Veterans Writers Group Exhibits at Los Angeles Festival of Books*



Best Selling Authors at VSC Booth

The CSUSB Veterans Success Center and its Written By Veterans Program broke new ground on the weekend of April 18, when the center represented CSUSB for the first time at one of Southern California's most important cultural events, the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books.

The VSC's free, all-volunteer Written By Veterans Program was conceived less than a year ago with the goal of opening the world of creative writing to all affiliated with the U.S. military and their dependents.

The Written by Veterans Program offers a college-level screenwriting course during the summer, which is an introduction to the art and craft of professional storytelling, as well as a year-round veterans writers group,

which includes CSUSB alumna and best-selling author Vanessa Booke among its advisors. In this supportive setting, group members can complete their projects, and when they are ready, publish their work in print and eBooks. The publishing is handled by Written By Veterans' own imprint, a unique setup that allows authors to retain all rights and profits. Finally, the program helps its published authors meet their readers in person. "This step is essential to developing as a writer," emphasizes Andreas Kossak, a CSUSB faculty member who spearheads the program. "And what better place to get to know your readers than at the prestigious Los Angeles Times Festival of Books?"

With this goal in mind, Marci Daniels, director of the Veterans Success Center, and Kossak took the program's newly published authors to the 20<sup>th</sup> annual LA Times Festival of Books with its tens of thousands of visitors. "It was very inspiring to see our authors interact with their readers," Kossak observed. "Nothing completes the writing process like shaking their hands, looking them in the eye, chatting with them, posing for their photos, signing your book for them. It is a fundamental experience, that puts it all in perspective and keeps you writing, especially if you sell all your books, and our authors did just that."

The first batch of books showcased included ROSE, a suspense-laden thriller screenplay, written by Suzy Pearce and her husband, Marine Corps veteran Jeff McCarley, as well as Marine Corps veteran Jorge Aguayo's screenplay MY WORST ENEMY, a personal story of a veteran who struggles to find his bearings, and Aguayo's collection of poetry, "Vita." "I was especially amazed," Kossak remembers, "to see veterans of all ages come to our booth and buy the books written by our veterans. There is a very strong interest in books by fellow veterans, no matter if they are screenplays, works of fiction, or poetry."

Being an author is also a very personal experience, as Jorge Aguayo found out. Kossak remembers, "I was very moved when I met Jorge's family, who came to the Festival of Books to see Jorge, now a published author. They had no idea that he was writing books and Jorge had never spoken to them about his war experiences during Desert Storm. Now, his book is out and a dialog has started, especially with Jorge's younger relatives, who are inspired by Jorge becoming a writer. Many doors are being opened and that is what this program is all about."

If you are interested in joining Written By Veterans, please contact the VSC.



## *CSUSB Alumni Commissions as Second Lieutenant*

Eric Rebollar  
2ndLt, Marine Corps Reserve



My name is Eric Rebollar and I am an alumni of CSUSB. I graduated in spring of 2013 with a bachelor's in criminal justice with a concentration in Crime Analysis. Six months after graduation, I joined the United States Marine Corps Reserves and was sent to Officer Candidate School (OCS) to earn a commission as a second lieutenant. Following OCS, I went on to the Marine Corps' Basic School (TBS). TBS is a six-month long training evolution that teaches every Marine Officer, regardless of occupation, the fundamentals of being an infantry platoon commander. At the completion of my time, I was assigned my Military Occupational Specialty (MOS): 7208 Air Support Control Officer. I went on to complete another three-month long training cycle at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms. Now that my training is all complete I will be drilling one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. I am currently in the final selection process to become a law enforcement officer.

## *Student Veterans Organization at Coyote Cares Day* Jordan Gallinger, SVO Treasurer

Community service is an important foundation of our society. Every year, millions of people donate countless hours of service to their local communities. As the Student Veterans Organization Treasurer, I had the pleasure of volunteering my time alongside fellow club members on April 18 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Coyote Cares Day. Our club preformed service for the Disabled American Veterans Garden in San Bernardino. We preformed upkeep and readied new garden sections for planting.

I am honored that our club and university had so many volunteers participate that day. It speaks volumes of the character of the participants to

willingly work so hard to better their communities. We had club members take their time to drive from out of the county to come to this event. Although the event was only one day, through the power of numbers the Student Veterans Organization and the university made a lasting impact. In the end, this project not only supports our community, it strengthens the ties between fellow service members and brings renewed pride in the participants. Coyote Cares Day was a remarkable success and I encourage everyone to participate next year, and to continue to be an active member of their community.





## *Meet the VSC's Tutor!*



Hello! My name is Vivek Kumar Muthusamy and I am currently working on my business degree here at CSUSB to master global strategy for international business. I received my master's in biotechnology from University of Texas, San Antonio and a bachelor's in industrial biotechnology from Anna University in India. I am very passionate about science and technology, and I enjoy teaching it as I get to learn through the process as well. I have taught advance level labs for graduate students and can tutor bio-related subjects such as biochemistry, biology, and chemistry. I can also tutor math subjects including calculus, statistics, algebra and trigonometry. My tutoring and contact information is below. Feel free to contact me whenever!

### Tutoring Hours

Monday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### Contact Information

Cell: (909) 702-0555

E-mail: [muthusav@coyote.csusb.edu](mailto:muthusav@coyote.csusb.edu)

## *PDC Armed Forces Day and Yellow Ribbon Campaign*

The CSUSB Palm Desert Campus Yellow Ribbon Campaign is a wonderful example of campus pride and respect for our men and women in the armed forces. Our ceremony included guest speakers USMC student veteran, Daniel Sisounthone and Assistant Dean, Dr. David Maynard. Sisounthone initiated the ceremony with his speech on gratitude and military honor while Dr. Maynard took us back to a greater understanding of the history and meaning of pinning a yellow ribbon on a tree and how such a meaning would be resonated and valued through our yellow ribbon campaign at PDC.

The Palm Desert Campus united as 17 campus departments and organizations chose to sponsor a tree in honor of our nation's deployed heroes. During the event,

said sponsors pinned yellow ribbons on trees around the Palm Desert Campus with ribbons provided by the Veteran's Success Center. Decorating trees was made a fun and slightly competitive task, as sponsors did their best to make their tree the winning and most honorable tree, in the eyes of the judges.

Our yellow ribbon campaign was merged with the Armed Forces Day celebration, we wanted to give our attendees a taste of what our armed forces men and women could expect to eat during their deployment. As such, our center provided MREs, or Meals, Ready to Eat, for attendees to try. For many this was their first experience and it opened up a new window in learning more about military life and culture.



## *VSC Recipient of Patriots of the Past Present and Future Education Award*

**On May 15 2015, the VSC was honored by California Senator Mike Morrell. The nomination read,**

The Veterans Success Center (VSC) opened its doors on May 25, 2012, in the bottom floor of the campus bookstore. Although the center has been in existence for just under three years, it has built a strong reputation throughout the Inland Empire for offering innovative leadership opportunities and education programs. The center's mission is to provide support services focused on the special needs and requirements of today's military veterans, service members and dependents to assist them in transitioning to the university environment and achieve their academic and personal development goals. The center offers new student veterans' orientation, monthly workshops, a weekly mental health support group and advocacy and referral services. Recently, CSUSB was ranked ninth among four-year colleges by Military Times, "Best for Vets: Colleges 2015". It was also ranked as the top public university in the state for services it offers to military personnel and veterans, according to Military Advanced Education's 2015 Guide. In 2015, CSUSB was named by Victory Media Group as a Military Friendly School, placing CSUSB in the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the nation working with vets.



## *PDC Memorial Day*



Friday May country.

29 2015, CSUSB-PDC students, faculty, and local residents gathered to celebrate the noble sacrifice of the men and

women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The ceremony was held in the lobby of the Palm Desert Campus Health Sciences Building. A projector inside displayed images of honor and valor for the United States of America and its fallen heroes. The focal point of the event was a memorial of white crosses symbolizing the brave men and women that did not make it home. Among the crosses were labeled crosses that stood in honor of our fellow Coyotes that gave the ultimate sacrifice for us and our

The event started off with welcoming remarks from CSUSB-PDC's Dean Sharon Brown-Welty. She reminded all those attending of the importance of Memorial Day and of the great honor our college has for our nations Armed Forces members. After her speech, the Marine Corps JROTC from Desert Hot Springs High School presented the colors, followed by the singing of our national anthem by Rancho Mirage High School student, Bryton Carpio. After paying respect to our nation and its colors, attendees were presented with the keynote address by Maj. Sean M. Merlin of the U.S. Marine Corps. He noted the importance of remembering the sacrifice of our service members on Memorial Day and stressed that the holiday can easily lose impact if we do not take the time to properly honor our service members. This address was followed

by a moment of reflection by Chaplain Lt. Matthew T. Fischer of the U.S. Navy. Attendees paid their respects to those currently on duty, those who have come home, and those who have fallen during this time. The end of the ceremony was marked by a folding of the flag by La Quinta High School's Air Force JROTC and a 21-gun salute by the American Legion Post 519.

After the ceremony, attending guests were invited to participate in a reception that included an assortment of lunch and desert items. The PDC Veterans Success Center was open to the attendees and as they entered they were given valuable information on the services provided for all CSUSB student veterans and veteran dependents. The CSUSB PDC Memorial Day event was a successful reminder of the honor and respect our Coyotes have for the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces.



# Goals for Spring Quarter?

**Jamey Johnson**

**U.S. Marine Corps Dependent**



My goals for spring quarter are to stay focused and pass all my classes so I can have a good summer vacation knowing I worked hard for the grades I earned. Fall and winter were the most stressful quarters and spring goes by the fastest, so if I stay on top of everything without procrastination I know I'll achieve my goals. I also

want to start making plans for summer as I will be busy with work and helping out my family with whatever they need.

**Angel Flores**

**U.S. Army National Guard Soldier**



This spring quarter I'm aiming to continue my academic excellence and pass my classes with high grades. As a sophomore, I've already managed to complete all my GEs and am already working on my upper division classes this quarter. I am well ahead of my four-year degree plan and my goal is to keep it that way. I am also striving to complete my final Bio class (Bio 202) of my yearlong Bio series with an "A", which has been said to be one of the most challenging series this school has to offer. As the quarter progresses my main focus is to succeed academically in order to achieve my long-term goal of graduating with above a 3.5 GPA.

**Grace Mundaca**

**U.S. Army National Guard Veteran**



Finals are close and it is time to hit the books. Normally, I will review the PowerPoint slides, chapters, and notes simultaneously. During this time, my kitchen counter and dining table turn into my den where nothing but studying happens. Lucky for me, I am a night owl and nights run long, days are hard, and success is near. I have also been accepted

to the social work program here at CSUSB and I am beyond honored to be given the opportunity to earn the degree.

**Megan Duenas**

**Air Force ROTC**



This spring quarter I am focusing on keeping my GPA at a 3.7. I have been able to hold a 3.7 for two quarters now and want to keep it going. I am also striving for the position of Cadet Wing Commander in the Air Force ROTC program. This is the highest position in the Cadet Wing and it is for the entire fall quarter. I believe this position will provide me with great opportunities and challenges. Lastly, I am striving to keep my fitness at a high level. This will help me prepare for my summer survival training.